

## ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to intracellular signalling molecules, in particular the Nod2 protein and nucleic acids encoding the Nod2 protein. The present invention provides isolated nucleotide sequence encoding Nod2, isolated Nod2 peptides, antibodies  
5 that specifically bind Nod2, methods for the detection of Nod2, and methods for screening compounds for the ability to alter Nod2 associated signal transduction. The present invention also provides Nod2 variant alleles. The present invention further provides methods of identifying individuals at increased risk of developing Crohn's disease.

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